



Allandale Neighbor

February 2019
Vol 34, Issue 1

Distributed to more than 4,500 homes by the Allandale Neighborhood Association

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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See form on page 23

REMINDER:

ANA Executive Committee meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at NW Rec Center.
General Membership meetings are held in March and September.
All are welcome!

Eliminate Single Family Zoning?

Kevin Smith and Allan McMurtry

The push in Austin to eliminate single family zoning continues and has picked up speed. This theory is based on three elements: density prevents environmental damage brought on by sprawl, more density in neighbor-

hoods creates affordable housing, and single-family neighborhood zoning is biased.

The issue about this three-pronged attack is that it is active in Austin. Min-

neapolis' City Council just approved by a 12-1 vote a motion to eliminate single-family residential use zoning. It has to go through a regional board for final

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State Legislature and Property Taxes

Adam Haynes

As you may know, the 86th Legislative Session started last month and continues until late May. The legislature will address many issues important to the Allandale neighborhood, but two issues are likely to dominate the session— public-school finance and property tax reform. For Allandale residents, these two issues are linked.

How we educate our children is the most important thing we can do to keep Allandale a great place to live and raise a family. If we are going to keep Gullett, Lamar, and McCallum strong, we must provide the resources necessary to keep quality educators, excellent programs, and upgraded facilities.

Of course, controlling property tax burdens is also a top priority. This past election cycle, voters sent a strong mes-

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Yard Bar Outdoor Amplified Music Venue Permit Appeal

BY WHO?

On February 21, the Austin City Council is to hear four appeals submitted by the neighbors within 600 feet of the Yard Bar (located at 6700 Burnet Road, where the old Mini golf course was). As it stands, the Yard Bar will be able to play up to 19 hours of music a weekend (three hours on Friday, 10 hours on Saturday and six hours on Sunday). The music will be played at a decibel level of 65/75, (it sounds somewhere between your alarm clock and a vacuum cleaner) according to the permit. According to 3M, the 75-decibel limit is where permanent hearing loss starts to occur. If you feel that having a new business moving into a well-established neighborhood and having that business profit off of lowering the neighborhoods quality of

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The Allandale Neighbor
is published bimonthly by the
Allandale Neighborhood Association (ANA)

www.allandaleneighbor.com

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A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR
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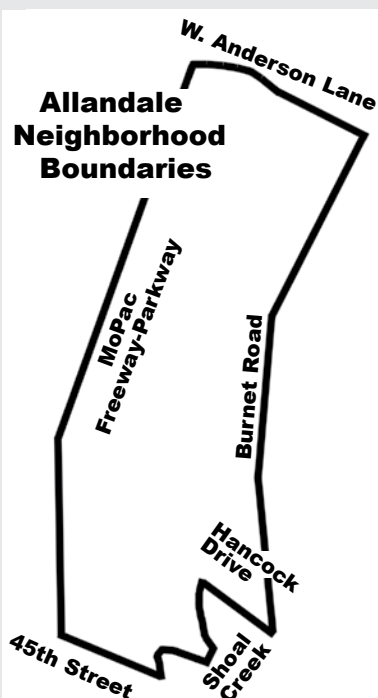
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President's Letter

Kevin Smith, ANA President, 512-791-6064, Allandale.neighborhood@gmail.com

As the president, I get somewhat frequent feedback that some of our fellow neighbors feel that we are not representing their viewpoints. To help not only address this feedback, but gain a comprehensive understanding of the neighborhood; we are instituting our first ever (as far as I know), survey.

Over the next two newsletters (April and June), we will be sending out two surveys. We are including them in the newsletter, as an effort to reach the maximum number of participants. The June newsletter will carry a new set of questions to help the Allandale Neighborhood Association (ANA) Board of Directors, further understand the responses from the April survey. In addition, ANA members will receive additional survey questions through our membership works email system. It is my intent to present the results from the surveys at the Fall Gener-

al membership meeting in September. Truly, it is my hope to have everyone participate in the survey.

In addition, we will be slightly tweaking the current structure of our monthly Board of Director's meeting (the first Wednesday of the month from 7-9 pm at Northwest Recreation Center, 2913 Northland Dr). We will be saving the last 10-15 minutes of every meeting for neighbor communication (roughly from 8:30-8:45pm). It is my hope that every month we will have a rotating topic for neighborhood input (March's topic will focus around ways the Neighborhood Association can do its job better).

It is my hope that through the surveys and dedicated topics for neighborhood input, not only will we capture a more diverse set of viewpoints, but foster a greater feeling of neighborhood inclusion. ☘



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Eliminate Single Family Zoning?

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

approval, but that board is under political pressure for not be elected and being disproportional in its makeup. It is unlikely such a board would overrule the largest city in its jurisdiction. There are two interesting facts about Minneapolis: 1) it has 72% owner occupancy, usually associated with single-family housing, 2) the new Austin City Manager was hired from his job as the City Administrator of Minneapolis.

The rumors at City Hall are that City Manager Cronk will issue a memo at the end of February on the "Next Steps for CodeNEXT." This parallels Mayor Adler's push for a vote on a new comprehensive land use plan before the end of the year. According to news sources, he doesn't have all of City Council behind him on this, but he might well have a majority.

So that leads us to a review of what CodeNEXT proposed in its final stages. First, it wanted to eliminate all single-family zoning in the entire City of Austin. As a measure, Minneapolis has 57.49 square miles in its city limits while Austin has over 264.9 square miles or 4.6 times

the size of Minneapolis. Second, CodeNEXT was proposing resubdividing existing residential lots down to 2,500 square ft., while envisioning a wholesale resubdivision of lots in single-family neighborhoods. Third, CodeNEXT envisioned either 1 parking space or none for new residential units. Fourth, the new code envisioned multiple dwelling units per lot.

Allandale is now ranking in multiple top ten real estate promotions lists identifying the best neighborhoods to live in Austin. And that raises an interesting question as to why the City would want to destroy desirable places in Austin. Allandale is not the only identified desirable residential neighborhood under threat as Crestview, Rosedale, Tarrytown, Zilker, and Hyde Park are among those making the lists as well.

This change in zoning is important to Allandale because it is the closest neighborhood to downtown with single family residential use only zoning (SF2). If that changes, you will not be notified if a next-door neighbor wants to turn the house into a duplex or more dense use under the new land code.

What I intend to do over the next several issues is tackle each of the issues

raised above as to why Allandale and its neighbors supposedly need be relocated. But this is in the bones of CodeNEXT, in the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan, and in the Strategic Housing Blueprint.

Let's visit the theories behind these assertions starting in the next Allandale Newsletter. ☼

Yard Bar Outdoor Amplified Music Venue Permit Appeal

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life, please attend the Austin City Council meeting on February 21. Council does take into account the amount of attendees for certain topic and let your voice be heard. ☼

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Allandale Outside: Lettuce Leaves Us

Faye L Holland

Update on the Large Urban Garden at Gullett

Wondering about the large urban garden on Gullett's sidewalk? I was super excited when Lettuce contacted Gullett about putting in an urban garden that they would maintain on school grounds for use in meal delivery kits. Their website says, "Reliability - Lettuce is committed to changing the modern food system and economy, bringing the power of production back to the communities that consume it and into the mind of the students who learn from it. Lettuce works year round to create and maintain an abundant urban food landscape in schools to feed families in the area." Gullett PTA would receive \$3 back on every meal kit ordered if people used the school code. It seemed like it was too good to be true, but it was worth it. Someone would use the land and we would have another gardening teaching tool on campus that came with experts. There were numerous meetings with them, figuring out the

contract for the principal to sign, to finding a site at the school, them touring our school to see our gardens, and figuring out their watering needs. The owners of Lettuce were very earnest and helpful. They assigned us specific urban garden coordinator farmers to help our school. Community gardening classes and gardening lessons twice a year for the whole school were offered too (We had an awesome gardening class in May. The students loved it.).

When the garden was installed Lettuce brought in truckloads of wonderful compost and soil, installed an advanced irrigation system, installed a sign and then planted a diverse set of crops. Everyone walking by campus was interested in watching the process and then the progress of the growing plants. Early risers could watch as, Saturday morning, farmers would harvest the crops. The millennial farmers that Lettuce hired were competent, involved, and responsive to our texts and meetings.

I tried the weekly meal delivery service for two weeks. I found it delicious. There was a lot of chopping and the rest of my family felt there were WAY too many vegetables. So we canceled it. I heard from a few other families that love it and some are continuing to use the service.

Then the end of this summer I started a full time job and was not on campus much. I also noticed that many of the eggplants were being left on the plant. I felt conflicted. Should we pick them because it looked like many of them were starting to rot? I contacted Lettuce by email and text, but did not hear anything back. By the time the parent who has mercifully taken over many of the volunteer responsibilities was able to get a hold of them, it was too late and most of the crops had rotted.

From what I understand, they have lost some funding and had to lay off many of the urban farmers. There also started to be issues with the Austin Independent School District Grounds Office. The company is



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still in business and is delivering meal kits. I went to a silent auction at a local pre-school and their meal kit was one of the offerings. I wish them all the best.

We at Gullett are going to try to keep the garden growing in some form, but there are not many people able to volunteer to work on the gardens. One idea is to plant summer hardy plants that need less

care like artichokes or lavender. If you have ideas or want to help please come to Gullett's "It's My Park Day", Saturday, March 2, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. If you sign up on the Austin Parks Foundation website you get a free t-shirt! I think it would be a waste to abandon the garden.

Also, please mark March 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on your calendar for

the Gullett Spring Plant Sale. We will have many varieties of vegetables and native perennials. It is always fun to meet neighbors and talk plants.

For other events, sign up for the "It's My Park Day", at Northwest Park on March 2, and Sunshine Garden is having their plant sale on March 2 also. ☼

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BUG OFF! Flour Beetles

Wizzie Brown

There are two types of flour beetles that may be encountered in the home— red and confused. These beetles are small (about one-eighth of an inch in length), reddish-brown to brown in color with a somewhat flattened body. Adults can be long-lived and survive up to three years. To tell the difference between the two, you would need to look closely at the tip of the antennae: red flour beetles have a distinct three-segmented club while confused flour beetles have a gradually formed four-segmented club. Fortunately, you don't really need to get that detailed in identification to manage them as they feed on similar foods and are often found in the same areas.

Flour beetles feed on grain dust and milled grains, but can also feed on undamaged grains. In homes they may be found in cereals, flour, pasta, dried beans, chocolate, nuts, herbs, spices, crackers, dried pet food, dried flowers and cake mix. With large populations of the

insects, they may cause a foul taste and odor to infested products due to a secretion from their scent glands.

Red flour beetles are able to fly while confused flour beetles cannot, so it is possible for them to move to different areas of the house. If you are having a problem with flour beetles, but cannot locate the source in your pantry, check other areas of the home such as where pet food is stored or areas with dried flowers or potpourri. Sometimes people see flour beetles during or after they have had a rodent infestation because the beetles can eat grain that may be in rodent baits or eat food from rodent nests where food was stored.

Management tips:

- Inspect all food items and get rid of anything infested. If you do not want to throw away infested food, you can either put it in the freezer for a week or heat in the oven at 200 degrees for two to three hours to kill off insects.

- Clean all pantry areas, making sure to get any grain dust out of cracks and crevices. Use a cleaning solution after all debris is removed. Seal any cracks where grain dust may accumulate with a sealant product.
- Do not buy damaged or expired items from the grocery store.
- Use products promptly. If you go away for a period of time (a week or more), store items in the freezer.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512-854-9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com.

This work is supported by Crops Protection and Pest Management Competitive Grants Program [grant no. 2017-70006-27188 /project accession no. 1013905] from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. ☼





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Allandale Eating - Haru Ramen & Kushiyaki

Robert E. Mace, Dining from Daugherty

With the addition of Haru Ramen & Kushiyaki, the forthcoming Dip Dip Tatsuya, Zen, and Ichiban, Allandale now has four spots to enjoy Japanese cuisine. And with the ramen revolution still in full swing, the 'hood will have three ramen joints (assuming that Dip Dip Dip will ladle up its parent's specialty).

Haru, formerly known as Harabi, serves tonkotsu-style ramens that build upon an all-day-to-make pork-bone broth (tonkotsu means pork bones). The menu presents basic tonkotsu ramens named white (original tonkotsu), black (with black garlic oil and black sesame), red (with spicy seasoning), and brown (with miso) as well as signature ramens (bulgogi, spicy miso, and Don Katsu). Haru also prepares tsukemen (cold ramen) and a vegan ramen. For the kiddos or ramen architects, there's a basic broth and noodle option where you choose the toppings. There are 19 toppings to choose

from and three bowl bombs (lemon yuzu kosho, miso butter, and hot chili).

After the cold front moved through over the holidays, ramen seemed to be just what the ishi ordered. We started our meal with warm sake and, among the three of us, ordered sea-salted edamame (\$4), a black ramen (extra rich pork bone broth, house-made pork belly chashu, aji tamago, negi, and wood ear mushroom with black garlic oil and black sesame, garlic chips and nori; \$12), a brown ramen (rich pork bone broth, house-made pork belly chashu, aji tamago, negi, and wood ear mushroom with miso and sweet corn; \$12), and a bulgogi ramen (donkotsu broth, beef bulgogi, onions, napa cabbage, bean sprouts, enoki mushroom, and green onion; \$13). The ramens were good; I actually found the brown ramen to be richer and tastier than the black, but I was not disappointed with my bowl of Vader.

Yakitori are skewers or kabobs, and

Haru offers 17 different skew-targets to choose from, including chicken gizzard, chicken heart, chicken liver, beef tongue, and quail egg and bacon among more tame ingredients. On a return visit, we went with a yakitori mix & match (\$25) choosing chicken breast, spicy chicken thigh, beef meatball, lamb and garlic, salmon, enoki mushroom and bacon, quail egg and bacon, and shitake. The standouts were the enoki mushroom and bacon (with the tiniest enokis ever) creating an unusual symphony of flavors and chewing acrobats, the flavorful meatballs, the tasty shitakes, and the savory salmon.

For appetizers, we enjoyed a grilled avocado (kizami wasabi, habanero sea salt, and yuzu lemon ponzu; \$6) and the shishito (stir-fried Japanese green pepper, dried anchovy, bonito flakes, and habanero sea salt; \$6). Both of these dishes were surprising. The avocado was like nothing

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Allandale Eating - Haru Ramen & Kushiyaki

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

we'd eaten before in a very good way. And dear, dangerous habanero sea salt: where have you been my whole life? The shishitos included a pile of the smallest anchovies we've ever seen (if we were five years older, we wouldn't have been able to see them...). Again, different, but delicious.

The space is strip-mall-level comfy and the service friendly, although the edamame arrived with our mains instead of as

an appetizer as we had desperately hoped. Nevertheless, as the neighborhood ramen-slinger of the moment, we'll be back!

(Haru Ramen & Kushiyaki, 2525 West Anderson Lane; 512-407-9000; table service)

To see these photographs, and additional ones, in color, please visit www.austinwanderlist.com/blog. ☘



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More Allandale Eating - Quick Bites

Robert E. Mace, Dining from Daugherty

After 30 years in business, Suzi's China Grill closed right before Christmas. The owner, Suzi Yi, decided to retire, something she is able to do with rents coming in from her new building. Suzi already lined up a new tenant, a northern expansion for District Kitchen + Cocktails which specialize in New American cuisine (and won a baking competition last year on Netflix's Sugar Rush).

Getting a good buzz on NextDoor is Cielo Bistro Mexico in the former location of El Arroyo on Woodhollow off of Far West. After strolling up to the stormwater retention pond off of Great Northern one day and seeing the pedestrian bridge to Far West, I realized that I need to visit eateries just west of MoPac (including highly rated Saffron and Biderman's Deli) that are "just across the street" from our 'hood. High 5, the replacement for the Goodnight bowling operation on Anderson, opened in November (see review below).

Daphne's Mediterranean out of California bought the sadly bankrupt Noon (formerly known as Vert's) and will begin rebranding in March. Daphne's will keep Noon's bowls and add its Greek food to the menu. Also renaming itself is Stubb's Bar-B-Que next to Lala's Little Nugget, now named Do-Rite Barbecue. Stubb's downtown expanded slightly, which drew the ire of the company it sold its sauce to, resulting in the name change of not only its satellites but also, eventually, of the original downtown location.

Recently reviewed Kiwami Ramen closed and is now Red Pepper Szechuan. Wild Chix & Waffles shut down briefly in November to reopen as gluten-free, and Citizen Eatery has gone full vegan. Something that's not moving fast is the sign for Noori's Grill after Noori took over Tinos Greek Café. Speaking of slow, I was able to peek into the forthcoming Dip Dip Dip Tatsu-Ya on a recent run to Tacodeli, and the Ya looks almost ready for business. Another month or two?

Our neighborhood restaurants continue to earn accolades. Eater gave The Peached Tortilla a shout-out as a top happy hour for cheap eats and drinks and

included it along with Biderman's Deli and Fonda San Miguel as part of its top 38. Eater also bequeathed Epoch Coffee as excellent. The Austin American-Statesman's Matthew Odam, who recently released his list of Austin's 50 best restaurants, recently ate at Eldorado and gave it his top spot on his list of Should-Have-Been-In-My-Top-50.

In its top ten sips, the Austin Chronicle included Jack Allen's Kitchen at #2 for its Garrison Brothers Small Batch single barrel whiskeys, Hopdoddy at #9 for its Little Larry miniature margarita, and Eldorado at #10 for its off-menu Sandinista and Tamarindo. The Chronicle also placed Jack Allen's Fat Jack Burger at #4 as Local Taste of Heaven and Eldorado's biscuits at #5 as a Carby Treat. Phoenicia Bakery & Deli came in at #4 for grocery stores.

Pat Sharpe of Texas Monthly listed Barley Swine, Tacodeli, and epicerie among her best Austin restaurant standbys. Tom Thorton of Eater Austin listed Noble Sandwich and Erin Russell, also of Eater, listed Jack Allen's Kitchen as standbys. Tribeza named Steven Dilley, the owner of Bufalina, as one of its people of year, and Business Insider named Torchy's Tacos the best chain they ate at in 2018.

They don't call 'em Damn Good Tacos for nothing!

High 5

Despite adoring The Dude, we are not bowlers (although I've been known to belly the ball and I'm an expert in Body English). We are, however, eaters. The classic Austin bowling-food spot is the Dart Bowl where you can enjoy a hefty plate of old-skool enchiladas in an authentic dive setting. But what if you want to spare more refined fare?

When the Goodnight opened up on Anderson Lane in 2012, they introduced chef'd-up dining and drinking to the bowling (and video-gaming) experience. The Goodnight was a place you could take the kids, set 'em loose, and then loosen up with good friends, good cocktails, and good eats.

After the Goodnight and their landlord couldn't see eye-to-eye on rent, the Goodnight guttered. Shortly after that, in rolls High 5. Started in Bettendorf, Iowa (close to my hometown), High 5 expanded to Lakeway and now Anderson Lane. The vibe and concept are similar to Goodnight,

although the food and drinks seem slightly more creative, thanks to the touch of Chef David Hedger.

We stopped in for lunch on MLK Day to give the place a try. Since I had the day off, I ordered Mo's Avocadorita (Sauza Tequila, fresh muddled avocados, and Paula's orange with a tajin salt rim; \$10) mainly because: Muddled avocado? The bartender further enticed me with a tequila upgrade (I forget which one; \$3). I got it all down, but I can't say I'd order it again. And the upgrade



Duck, Duck, Goose! at High 5

turned out to be a floater, which meant I had to hike over to Office Depot and then to EcoClean to double wood the buzz before driving home. Unusual ingredients are an attractor for me (sometimes they work, sometimes they don't), but be assured that the cocktail menu sports more standard mixers (not to mention beers on tap).

Intrigued by charred strawberries, the bride ordered the Spinach and Arugula Salad with chicken, a plate that received good reviews at Lakeway (charred strawberries, Australian goat and sheep feta, spicy candied pecans, and champagne vinaigrette; \$15) and I chose the Duck, Duck, Goose! appetizer (two ground duck sliders with a blackberry brandy sauce, one pan-seared foie gras crostini with a pomegranate jam, all topped with arugula and pickled shallots; \$22). The salad was excellent—the bride loved the strawberries—and the chef'd-up sliders were savory and sweet. The slider order brought the chef out to chat since nothing says foodie more than ordering the most expensive item on the menu (for lunch no less).

The food took a while to come out, especially for lunch, probably because of the sliders. If you are in a rush (and light on cash), we'd recommend ordering from the daily lunch specials, which range from

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More Allandale Eating - Quick Bites

Continued from page 9

\$6 to \$8. The full menu ranges from burgers (\$10), grilled cheese (\$9), and all-beef foot-long hot dogs (\$12) to snapper provençal (\$21), veggie pesto pappardelle (\$12 to 16), and chimichurri rojo skirt steak (\$17). And lookythere: Fried Twinkies (\$9)! On Sundays, High 5 serves up brunch. If you hate gluten, there are many gluten-free options on the menu.

MLK Day was slow, but while we were there, a few of the target clientele –families with kids– were enjoying the place. Mom and dad could retire for a quiet meal while the sprogs sprang off to hoot and holler in the arcade. We don't have kids, but if we did, we'd probably be here weekly. And given the depth of the menu, we need to come back during prime evening hours to check out other bites.

High 5: 2700 West Anderson Lane, 512-710-2695, bowlhighfive.com

Up the Road: Nervous Charlie's

We have a lot of New Yorkers in Austin. Evan Smith of the Texas Tribune and Asher Price of the Austin American-

Statesman come to mind as well as numerous friends (and enemies) in and around the city. New Yorkers are justifiably finicky about New York-style food such as pizza and bagels (just as I am about New Mexican cuisine). In the land of breakfast tacos, is it even possible to get a good New York style bagel?

Here to answer that question is Nervous Charlie's, a wee drive from the neighborhood over to Lamar via 2222. Nervous Charlie's, named after the owners' spooky spaniel, flies in dough from New York City (the yeasty kind, not the laundered kind) and serves up bagels as bagels and, in a nod to local fusion, essentially as New York tacos splayed with various ingredients. Why fly dough in from New York? Because that New York water is a magic ingredient.

You can go to Charlie's and get a New York Dozen bagels (13 for \$15) or an Austin Half Dozen (7 for \$9), and these bagels look (and taste) gorgeous. Charlie's serves up breakfast and lunch bagels with breakfast bagels gloriously served all day (Can I still order a breakfast bagel? "Sir, we let you decide when you want to eat breakfast.").

On my first trip, shortly after they opened, they only offered two sandwiches

three bucks. Want one of the in-house flavored cream cheeses (such as bacon scallion, pistachio, or maple walnut)? Add another half buck. And they'll tell you what's fresh 'cause you really (really) want a born-from-the-boil bagel if you can get one.

The interior is bright and modern if not a bit Spartan. On my first visit, everyone seemed to comically trip over the chairs which, when drug over the floor, disturbingly sounded like electrocuted elephants. Thankfully, this didn't seem to be a problem on a recent visit. One suggestion would be to leave in-house orders unwrapped so patrons (and the itinerant food blogger) can enjoy the unsmoothed glory of the coming meal.

I'm not sure what Charlie is nervous about (those chairs?), but you don't have to be nervous when you visit 'cause you're guaranteed to get good gol-dang bagel.

Nervous Charlie's: 5501 North Lamar, 512-366-5305, nervouscharlies.com

To see these photographs, and additional ones, in color, please visit www.austinwanderlist.com/blog ☼

Gullett Good News

Piper Browne

The Gullett Geckos are full speed ahead as we eagerly anticipate warmer weather! So far in 2019, we celebrated the 100th day of school with a parade of our Kindergarten classes, and we've kicked off our 14th annual BookSpring Read-a-thon.

BookSpring is a really big deal at Gullett - each year our students read hundreds of pages to raise money for children in Austin who don't have their own books at home. In the past 13 years, we have raised over \$200,000 to purchase books for all children in Austin to have access to great reading material!

Looking ahead, we have lots of fun activities coming up this spring:

Feb 18: Student Holiday

Feb 21: Curriculum Night

Mar 2: Gardening at Gullett - Celebrate



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TOTAL TRANSACTIONS	79	85	90
MEDIAN SALES PRICE	\$515,000	\$550,000	\$575,000
MEDIAN DAYS ON MARKET	9	11	8
MEDIAN \$/SQ FT	\$290	\$297	\$317
MAX PRICE SOLD	\$880,000	\$1,317,000	\$1,222,500
MIN PRICE SOLD	\$355,000	\$399,900	\$345,000

For detailed market information about your home contact Jason Heffron, Broker

All YTD data is pulled from Austin MLS for single family residence as of January 1st - December 30th.

JASONHEFFRON.COM



"It's My Park Day" by helping to beautify our campus!

Mar 18 – 22: Spring Break (A week later than past years!)

Mar 30: Viva Gullett! fundraiser at Easy Tiger

Apr 2 (probably): Kindergarten Round-up for AISD. The official date hasn't been set yet, but it's been the first Tuesday in April the past few years. Please keep your eyes and ears open for more information about this event!

Apr 19: Student Holiday

Online Registration for the 2019-2020 school year is available. Please go ahead and register because it helps Gullett with staffing. Registration for returning students is available through the AISD Cloud at my.austinsisd.org.

Please continue to be cautious when driving near campus during school hours, and reach out if you'd like to volunteer at Gullett as a cafeteria monitor!

For more information, always go to <https://gullettgeckos.com/>. ☼

All About Lamar

Laura Dooley



The Lamar Scotties hit the ground running after their winter break and continue to make strides in a multitude of endeavors.

Something that makes Lamar such a special place is the diversity that makes up our student body. We have kids from over 50 elementary schools represented at our school, and that has to be some sort of record for an urban school district. The nature of our Fine Arts Academy program means that all of our kids can take part in a variety of fine arts classes, not just a select few.

One of our programs that makes us super proud of our kids is the Jazz Factory. Students with a variety of backgrounds, some of whom never played an instrument before their arrival at Lamar, create world-class music that's a pure delight to listen to. The Jazz Factory, under the direction of Mr. Escobedo, has been invited to perform at the Next Generation Jazz Festival in Monterey, California from April 5-7. And they weren't just "invited"... they're one of only six middle school jazz bands nationwide that are finalists in the competition. Scottie mom Juliette Owens, whose seventh grader and Jazz Factory trombonist Benji followed in the musical footsteps of his big brother Gavin (now a star saxophonist at McCallum), said, "Mr. Esc-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



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All About Lamar

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

obedo is fantastic, and the band education at Lamar is second to none.”

If you know rising sixth graders headed to Lamar next year, encourage them to come to Instrument Discovery Day at Lamar on April 13. Students can learn more about all the instruments and talk with Mr. Escobedo about what might be a good fit for them. Did you know we have an Environmental Science class? Ms. Wagner and her students have been working hard at creating a butterfly garden. In just over a year, she has led the kids in transforming the fertile but weed-infested soil into a home for 103 local butterfly garden plants. You can be part of encouraging the continued success of the Lamar Butterfly Garden by attending our next work day, scheduled for March 9 from 9:00-1:00.

If you find yourself in the 200 wing of Lamar and wonder what the kids are up to in that room with all of the big-screen iMacs, one of the amazing things that

happens in there is the creation of an awesome yearbook! Mrs. Dietz and her team are hard at work on the 2018-2019 edition of The Scottie, which has been selected as a national yearbook sample. This means that the yearbook publisher, Balfour, will print extra copies of our yearbook to use at training workshops. Fewer than three percent of Balfour publications are chosen as national samples, so congratulations are in order for Mrs. Dietz and her staff!

Calling all Scottie dancers: are you interested in auditioning for advanced dance or dance company for next school year? If so, please mark your calendars for a mandatory workshop on March 26 from 3:40 – 6:00 in the big gym. In addition, there's an optional audition workshop for advanced dance and dance company to get assistance and/or clarification on audition materials. This optional event is March 27 from 3:40 – 6:00 in Dance Portable #5. Audition days will quickly follow, so stay tuned for dates and times.

The boys' basketball and girls' soccer teams have been tallying some wins and showing excellent teamwork and Scottie

spirit. The soccer players have had to deal with some cold morning games, but according to eighth grader Emmi Anderson, a center midfielder, it's all worth it. “The best part of being on the team is meeting all the new girls and connecting with them on the field and off. I have made so many new friends and it's amazing to be part of such a fun team!” We're proud of our athletes... go Scotties!

Ms. Easter, Ms. Luna, and Ms. Starkey achieved a fine arts trifecta with the production of Aladdin, Jr. last month at the Performing Arts Center. They led their actors, dancers, and singers through the magical city of Agrabah to the delight of audiences for four nights in a row. They guided 85 cast and crew on this journey and we're so grateful for their dedication. What a fun show!

That peaceful sound you might have heard coming from the cafeteria earlier this month was probably coming from our Peace Through Pie event. Students, staff, and families enjoyed an evening of fine arts performances, including songs, dances, and poetry, and of course enjoyed slices of pie as well. Thank you to Mrs.

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Mizener for continuing this great Lamar tradition!

It's hard to imagine our school without this year's group of eighth graders, but they are moving onward and upward! If you have a rising ninth grader, mark your calendars for February 26 for the McCallum High School Expo Night. This event is for students and families who would like to know more about attending McCallum. Members of administration, counselors, faculty, and staff will be on hand to talk about the many departments, programs, and clubs available. ☞

It's Knight Time – McCallum Updates

Kristin Knifton

Mac Knights are busy both in and out of the classroom. Hardly a day goes by when there isn't an athletic or arts performance to attend! With all of this activity, students need to be sure to keep getting enough sleep and good nutrition to stay healthy. AISD's attendance policies are much stricter than in the past, due in part to the district's need to receive the daily per-pupil funding from the state.

From the McCallum website: "Over the break you should have received your child's report card. This would have arrived electronically unless you chose

otherwise when you registered your child at the beginning of the school year. You'll notice that, for each class, the report card lists the percentage of time your student was physically in class according to the rules for the State. This information is listed in the second section under the section with grades. If your child passed a class, but was in class less than 90% of the time, then he/she needs to come meet with their Assistant Principal (see below) to find out how to make up their missed time. This can be done either through Saturday school or through keeping a (blue) tutoring log, which can be found in the office. You can also know that your child lost credit in a class due to attendance if in the last column in the grade section (credit) they received an "NC" where the .5 or 1 should be.

Speaking of attendance, although the spring semester is longer, it flies by just as quickly as the fall. Please encourage your child to keep an eye on their attendance. They can do this through their student cloud account. Students should check their attendance each Monday for the previous week. If something doesn't look accurate, maybe they came late to a class and were marked absent or they were at the dentist and realize they forgot their note, then the student can quickly and easily fix their attendance. If they

wait until the end of the semester before they check, then it's much harder to get the corrections made. For seniors this is a particularly important semester to do this. If a senior loses credit in a class necessary for graduation and primarily has UNXes as their codes, although technically the student will still be in the Class of 2019, he/she will not walk the stage until August.

AP assignments by last name:

Ms. Sherline (A-Cn)
Mr. Baxa (Co-Hd)
Mr. Reyes (He-Me)
Mr. Featherstone (Mi-Sd)
Mrs. Stone (Se-Z)

There are several important dates coming up for rising McCallum ninth graders (entering in the fall of 2019). On February 26, the Mac Expo Choice Knight will take place from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Information will be provided regarding courses, programs, and clubs available at McCallum. March 4–8 the Mac counselors will visit Lamar Middle School to assist with course selection. March 26–27 the counselors will visit Kealing Middle



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It's Knight Time – McCallum Updates

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

School and March 28 Fulmore Middle School. Be on the lookout for summer transition camp information.

Important Dates:

February 18: Student holiday (staff development)

February 21: Inside Out Carnival steel band concert

February 26: Mac Expo Choice Knight 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

(This event is for students who will be/hope to be attending MAC next school year. It provides information about all of the various departments, programs and clubs at McCallum. Administration, Counselors, Faculty and Staff are on hand.)

February 27: Choir pre-UIL concert

March 1: Knight of Percussion benefit concert

March 8 – 9: Dance spring concert

March 11-13: Piano spring recital

March 14: Classical guitar spring concert

April 1: CAC meeting 5:30 in library,

PTSA meeting 6:30 in library

April 2 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.: Academy Choice Knight (Mac Theater). This event is for students who have been accepted into the McCallum Fine Arts Academy as one of our music majors for next school year. For more info, go to: <https://mccallumhs.com/fine-arts-academy/apply/>.

April 3 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.: Academy Choice Knight (Mac Theater). This event is for students who have been accepted into the McCallum Fine Arts Academy as a Theatre, Dance, Visual Arts or Cinematic Arts major for next school year.

April 12-13: Blue Brigade spring show

April 19: Staff development / student holiday

April 27: Senior prom

May 6: CAC meeting 5:30 in library,

PTSA meeting 6:30 in library

May 24: last day of classes

May 29: Class of 2019 graduation

There are many more performances and athletic events – please check www.mccallumhs.com/events-calendars/

mccallumhs.com/events-calendars/

To get more frequent updates about MAC happenings, you may check the website (mccallumhs.com), the award-winning Mac Journalism online at macshieldonline.com, or follow Mac Journalism on Instagram. ☞

More Mac – Dance Reminders

Amy Hufford

McCallum Youth Dance Company presents Momentum March 8 and 9

Join the dancers of the McCallum Youth Dance Company in their spring dance concert, Momentum. Experience excellence in arts education, with dance works by guest choreographers Kelsey Oliver, Lisa Kobdich, as well as teachers Rachel Murray and Natalie Uehara. Featured dance styles will include modern, contemporary jazz, flamenco and ballet.

"This concert features the work of many wonderful choreographers including a Tulsa-based dance educator, Tyne



February is American Heart Month!

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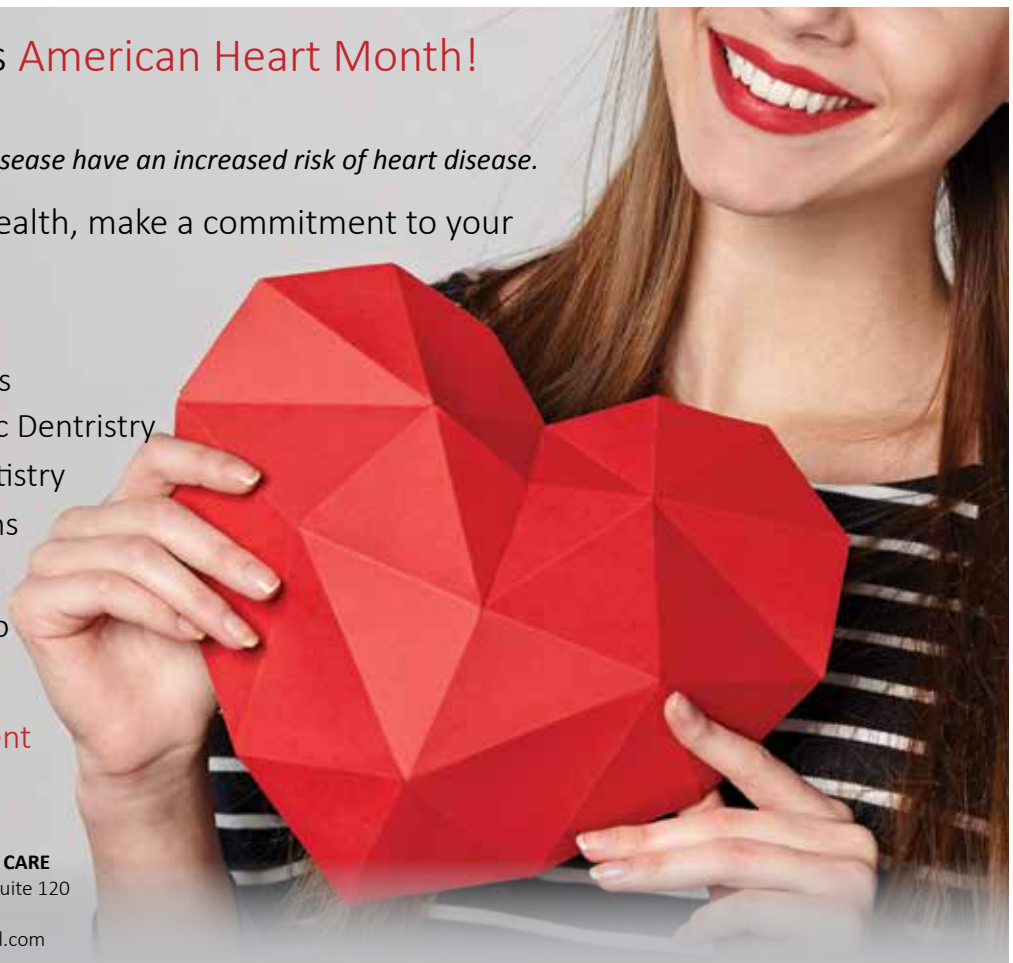
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Shillingford, and two MAC Dance Alumni,” said Natalie Uehara

The concert, showcasing the talents of youth dancers from Austin’s only public high school dedicated to the performing and visual arts, runs for two shows, at 7:00 p.m. on March 8 and 9, at the McCallum Arts Center at 5600 Sunshine Drive. Tickets are \$7 for students, \$10 for seniors, \$12 for adults, and \$20.00 VIP, and are available for purchase at the door or online at <https://squareup.com/store/MACDANCEDREAMS/>.

Also save the date for the student-directed concert which will be held May 3 and 4, 2019, at McCallum. ☼

JOIN ANA

More Mac – Theater Reminders

Sabrina Wallace

Our Town (May 16-19, 2019), McCallum Fine Arts Theatre Building

In the small town of Grover’s Corners, ordinary people lead extraordinary lives. This simple, yet profound story of a community, brought to life by Thornton Wilder’s singular voice, allows the audience to contemplate life, death, and the meaning of it all. Miracles are the glory of the commonplace and change comes slowly to a small New Hampshire town in the early 20th century. People grow up, get married, live, and die in a hauntingly beautiful meditation on the wonders of daily existence. Wilder’s Pulitzer Prize-winning play made its debut in 1938, and was hailed as “one of the finest achievements of the current stage.” In this beautiful contemplation of the ties that bind

small communities together, audiences of all ages are led to think beyond ordinary moments in life and appreciate their existence through the lenses of time and history.

Tickets may be purchased in advance at <https://mccallum.ludustickets.com/>.

Student tickets are \$7; adults are \$16, and seniors are \$12. Add \$2 for tickets purchased at the door, except at the student rate.

Group rates: groups of 10 or more receive a 10% discount when purchasing tickets online.

All shows start at 7:00 p.m. except Sunday shows. Visit www.mactheatre.com for details.

For further information, please contact:

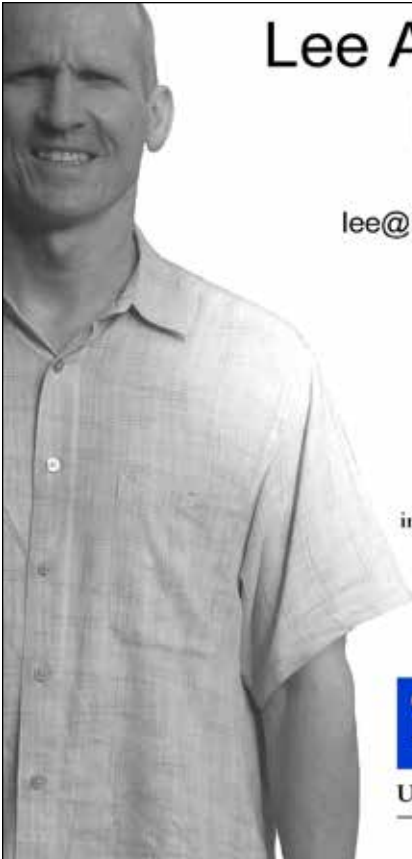
Joshua Denning, Director and Theatre Teacher, McCallum High School & Fine Arts Academy, joshua.denning@austinisd.org ☼



ANA Executive Committee Meetings

Held on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. & are open to the public.

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Neighborhood Watch

Laura DiCarlo, ANA Safety Chair, lhdicarlo@yahoo.com

Activities in which the Safety Committee has been engaged since the December newsletter:

- Became aware and disseminated crime/safety and sex offender info
- Inquired about and learned we received permission for a

crossing guard at 2222 and Burnet

- Attended the city's community input meeting re SCB on December 12
- Consulted with our new DR Officer Doug Ellis on several issues
 - Set up a TAKE10 CPR training at the Northwest Rec Center 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (drop in), February 23, 2019
 - Cleaned up/reported graffiti using the 311 app

Crime Stats

Since the December newsletter there has been just one Burglary of Residence (BOR), which occurred on January 3 in the 5000 block of SCB. A white female and white male were arrested in that case.

There were several burglary of non-residences however. The Mr. Gatti's Pizza on Anderson Lane was burglarized three times from January 8 through 13, and the detective in charge of the case said it is common for a business to be broken into repeatedly. While he hadn't seen surveillance video yet there was indication it may have been a homeless perpetrator. The manager reported additional measures have been taken for the restaurant's after hours security and they don't envision any more problems. Christmas Eve, Fresh Plus Grocery had an aggravated robbery with a deadly weapon, meaning the perpetrator made contact with someone in the store. A manager there said he is new and it happened before he arrived, but had heard the perpetrator was caught. One of the detectives assigned to the case indicated that one of the three were arrested.

There were nine Burglaries of Vehicles (BOVs), five of which were near single family residences (Foster Lane, Shoal Creek Boulevard, Hancock, and Nasco). Three were on Burnet Road and in the 2525 W. Anderson Lane strip mall parking lot, and the suspect in one is a towing company that picked up a car near Wynona and 2222. The term BOV is used when items in a car are stolen, and when the vehicle is stolen it's called auto theft.

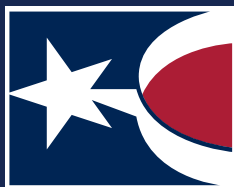
There have been three auto thefts in Allandale since the last newsletter. One was a golf cart, scooter or moped from TX Elite Motors, but the other two were residential. In the case at 5350 Burnet Apartments on January 22, keys were left in the car and the car was unlocked, according to the detective in charge of the case. In an email response Detective Berwick thanked me for taking the time to inquire and said while their investigative unit doesn't generally receive calls from the neighborhood associations, he has been working over the past year to remedy that, especially in the West Campus area where he said statistics remain higher than in other parts of the city. Keys left in vehicles and doors unlocked is a major concern for APD he said, and they are working with the Public Information Office to get the message out about securing vehicles and removing keys.

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He added that over the past four months, five of the eight auto thefts in his area had keys in the vehicle and doors unlocked, and that he would appreciate if I reminded people to secure their keys, which would go a long way to preventing these incidents.

The other auto theft last month was not as simple. Two men in hoodies and ski masks forced a man out of his car at gun point at 1:30 in the morning on January 5 in the parking lot of the Rosedale Apartments on W. North Loop Boulevard (behind Savers) and stole his phone, wallet, and car. When I called the detective to ask if this might have been a case of perpetrators known to the victim he said it was not, that the incident was random, and that car jackings happen more than we realize in Austin. When I asked what we can do his only advice was to be as aware of our surroundings as possible. I'm guessing that avoiding being out at 1:30 in the morning can help as well.

A brick was thrown through the studio window at Danzversity at 2110 White Horse Trail before dawn on December 7. A police report was filed, and a detective has been assigned to the case. Danzversity founder Jaymie Orozco-Howard asked me to inform the community so others could be aware and to see if anyone else had a similar circumstance. I posted on Nextdoor and the list-serv but did not hear of other incidents in Allandale (the Bowie rock throwing incident happened the week before). I did not see the camera footage from Danzversity but Ms. Orozco-Howard said it looked to be a male figure carrying a backpack and a duffle bag, but no facial details could be seen. The studio is across the street from Lamar Middle School, and Ms. Orozco-Howard informed the principal. Please reach out Danzversity or the police if you have any information about this incident or if you had any windows broken.

Sex Offender Information

A resident who uses the Watch Dog app was concerned about two sex offenders who moved into a nursing home on Burnet Lane. The resident initially thought the sex offenders were receiving out-patient services at a location on Burnet Road across from Lamar MS, which sparked a conversation with Sergeant Craig Smith of the APD Sex

Offender Unit. According to Sgt Smith, the city of Austin does not have a law that restricts where sex offenders can live, but sex offenders deemed not able to be rehabilitated aren't allowed to live in the community. Pflugerville has a law that sex offenders can't live within a certain distance of a school, but Austin has no such law. While we need to be sensitive to both sides as Sgt Smith has seen many who were haunted by old charges that did not involve children, if we have any concerns we can call him or we can advocate for a city ordinance to restrict where child sex offenders can reside. Sex offenders targeting kids are manipulative, often give gifts to groom victims, and have preferences and patterns. The system keeps tabs on sex offenders in that they must report job changes, moves, out of town travel, etc. to their case workers within seven days, and if this protocol is not followed there can be consequences. Sgt. Smith added that it is good to use the Watch Dog app, important to teach kids the dangers, help them to stay safe, and be aware at all times.

Crossing Guard position open at 2222 and Burnet Road

While ANA president Kevin Smith was distributing December newsletters to a pocket of Allandale that doesn't get the newsletter delivered by mail, he spoke to a neighbor who was interested in getting

a crossing guard on 2222 near Lamar Middle School because while she wants to have her kids walk to school, she feels it is unsafe for her children to cross the street alone.

We reached out to the city and were put in touch with Amir Emamain of Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) who had a count done and found a crossing guard at 2222 and Burnet Rd. is warranted! I am excited to report that the position is now open and please encourage anyone interested to call Beatrice Bailey at 512-289-7451. The pay is \$15/hour and hours are 7:00 – 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. for a total of 2.5 hours each weekday.

Shoal Creek Conservancy (SCC) Trail Plan

Last February I reported that Joanne Wolavar of the SCC was a guest speaker at the December ANA EC meeting and presented The Shoal Creek Trail Plan (<http://www.shoalcreekconservancy.org/trailplan/>). Laura Dierenfield and Nathan Wilkes from the City of Austin Active Transportation Department spoke as well and explained that while this is the SCC's plan that was created using private money, SCC is partnering with the city. The meeting was well attended by Allandale residents, and while some voiced support of the trail plan, several who live on Shoal Creek Boulevard (SCB) shared concerns about a two-lane bike lane and

Become A Runner with the Allandale group that focuses equally between the fundamentals of running, self-confidence and community.

Oh yeah, and fun. We have a lot of fun.



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Neighborhood Watch

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

about the need for better cyclist safety on that street. The discussion has continued all year with more visits and the city hosted a community input meeting on December 12 at Gullett Elementary School and an online survey that closed on January 13. There is continued opposition to the plan by SCB residents concerned about safety, their home values, and more. The Allandale NA's VP Adam Haynes is leading ANA's efforts to negotiate this issue.

New APD District Rep (DR) Officer Ellis

Thank you and well wishes to Officer Everett Beldin, our District Representative (DR) for two years who transferred to the Emergency Management Unit in early December. Welcome to Officer Doug Ellis, who has been with us since the beginning of January and was a patrol for 12 years before becoming a DR. Officer Ellis has already been instrumental in helping deal with issues such as overloaded overweight construction trucks on 45th Street associated with the Grove construction.

TAKE10 Compression Only CPR training

Since February is American Heart Month, the Allandale Neighborhood Association Safety Committee will be hosting its sixth annual TAKE10 Compression Only CPR class on Saturday, February 23. We'll start at 10:00 a.m. and keep repeating the free class until 2:00 p.m. so folks can stop by whenever it's convenient for them.

TAKE10 stands for "Take 10 minutes to learn compression-only CPR" and was created here in Austin by the "Take Heart Austin" initiative. There is a lot to remember with traditional CPR including the mouth to mouth part, but compression only CPR is simple, fast and effective. It teaches the simple skill of compression-only CPR and builds confidence in learners.

Participants of all ages are welcome but the technique is to be done only on adults in cardiac arrest, not children.

You can learn more at www.takeheartaustin.org

Nextdoor, List-serv and Citizen Input

The topic of crime/safety came up on the Allandale list-serv and on Nextdoor in these areas:

- Adults sitting in chairs on the street watching kids play was controversial in that some saw it as friendly while others saw it as risky; someone else posted about kids in the road on Daugherty in the dark was dangerous as well.
- Front license plate stolen from a car at Kensington Apartments and someone replied to be aware it may be used on toll roads.
- Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) posted about community input meetings on December 10 at Yarborough and December 15 at Burnet Middle School about infrastructure safety projects.
- Ever present conversation about SCB and possible changes; issues with bikers, drivers, etc.
- Not yet on krimelabb.com but the following were reported on Nextdoor: on January 26 a car window was broken and a wallet stolen during the day from a car parked at the dog park on Great Northern Boulevard; on January 31 a minivan left running was stolen from a preschool on Justin Lane near Burnet.
- Police chase and arrest of a man in Northwest Park whose sleeping bag and other belongings were left behind.
- Someone found to have been squatting in a vacant garage on Northland; please be aware of unoccupied homes on your block and anyone trespassing

as there have also been recent thefts in vacant homes.

- A message was sent to the block captains and list-serv on January 18 that mentioned that two cars on Nasco at White Rock were rifled through; sunglasses were stolen out of an unlocked truck in the 4900 block of Placid Place; a thin white male about 5'9" in his late 20s/early 30s with wavy black hair and a tattoo on the back of his neck tried to enter the car of a nanny and child at Shady Oaks and SCB on January 9; and packages were stolen from Bull Creek near 45th and 50th/W. Frances January 6. Suspect was a white male with brown hair in his 20s.
- A public service message was posted on Nextdoor on January 12 by Neighborhood Liaison Natalie Lee that new cars often have a valet key in the glove compartment and to remove it. The message also said "Never leave a spare house or car key in your vehicle – thieves will find it and use it!"

Our APD District Representative is:

Officer Everett Beldin
everett.beldin@austintexas.gov
512-974-1219

Please contact me with questions, concerns, or if you are interested in getting involved with the safety committee. You can become a block captain, remove graffiti, patrol, help with the TAKE10 CPR training, and more! ☼

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State Legislature and Property Taxes

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

sage that property taxes are too high and the time for reform is at hand.

As we examine public-school finance, it is important to remember it is the State of Texas' State Constitutional obligation (Article 7, Section 1) to support and maintain a system of public schools. It says the state should, at a minimum, be an equal partner in funding this obligation. However, the reverse is true. Rather than the state being the primary funder of public education, the school finance formula requires local property taxpayers to pay for the overwhelming part of our public schools. In addition, the school finance formula penalizes a local district if they reduced their tax rate from the previous year.

The impacts of this formula are intense in Allandale as most of our property tax dollars go to fund education. In 2007 the state contributed almost \$50 million dollars more than local property tax payers. In 2017, however, local property taxpayers paid almost \$4 billion dollars more than the state for public schools. In short, politicians have shifted the funding burden of public education from the State to local property tax payers.

With the start of 86th Session, there is a possibility to fix our broken public-school finance system. The House has suggested adding \$9 billion dollars to education. This will not only increase overall school funding but also result in a reduction of our local property taxes. This effort is a big step toward a "fix" for public school finance. It accomplishes the top priority of funding education while also providing property tax reform. It is a win-win for Allandale.

You should make sure your state senator and representative understand that proper state financing of public education equals property tax relief. If the state pays its fair share and stops shifting the blame and costs to homeowners of Allandale, we can have a win-win this session. ☺

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Letters to the Editor:

We'd love for readers to submit newsletter ideas, stories, and reactions to articles

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Or join online via PayPal at: www.allandaleneighbor.com

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